

S 8708

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 6, 1966]

STORY BEHIND THE DODD TV INTERVIEW

(By Drew Pearson)

There's an interesting untold story behind the fact that the Metromedia TV hookup featured a recent filmed TV interview between Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.) and William Buckley, former Conservative candidate for Mayor of New York.

The story began Jan. 18, 1964, when Sen. Dodd's staff on his Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee finished a study of crime and violence on television. After monitoring ABC, CBS, NBC and Metromedia they found that the following networks had carried the following number of violent shows in one week: ABC, 45; CBS, 13; NBC, 64 and Metromedia, 111. (The Washington Metromedia outlet is WTTG-TV, Channel 5).

Realizing Dodd's power to influence television, Metromedia had already begun to cultivate the Senator, and almost immediately after this preliminary juvenile delinquency report Florence Lowe, Metromedia representative in Washington, intensified the lobbying play for Sen. Dodd.

On Jan. 9, even while the Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee was making its TV crime study, Mrs. Lowe invited Dodd to the Women's Press Club dinner, where he sat at the same table with Rep. Oren Harris (D-Ark.), then chairman of the potent House Commerce Committee, and Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine).

REGAL ENTERTAINMENT

On March 1, Dodd was entertained royally by Metromedia's owner, John Kluge, food broker and big-time advertiser, at his Beverly Hills home, which he purchased from Frank Sinatra.

Then followed other dinners and luncheons: April 14, with Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Kluge at dinner; April 23, with the Kluges at their 2101 Connecticut ave. home in Washington; May 15, with another Metromedia representative, Larry Fraiberg; May 21, dinner with Mrs. Lowe at the National Lawyers Club, and so on.

And when he went to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City in August, 1964, Lowe arranged to meet him at the airport and later proposed driving him on up to New London.

All this time Sen. Dodd and his Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee were supposed to be studying TV violence, including the extra high rate of violence on Metromedia. Inside fact, however, was that the study of Metromedia had come to a full stop. Mrs. Lowe had given the Senator a beautiful color TV set, and in gratitude for this and various entertainment the Senator had put Roger Lowe, Mrs. Lowe's son, on the staff of the Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee where he was able to read all reports and know exactly what was happening on the inside. Roger had no knowledge of juvenile problems other than being a school dropout. It was an amazing deal, and it continued for about two years.

A \$500 CAMPAIGN GIFT

Meanwhile the buttering up of the man in charge of investigating TV violence continued. When Sen. and Mrs. Dodd celebrated their wedding anniversary May 19, they received an assortment of champagne and choice liquors from the Kluges with a card reading: "Congratulations and best wishes. Theo and John."

As Dodd's election campaign approached, Mrs. Lowe wrote Oct. 6, 1964, "I am the self-appointed chairman, board of directors and membership of the 'Florence Lowe, for Dodd Committee.' So far all my candidates have won. You will be no exception. With fondest regard to you and Grace. Sincerely, Florence."

She also sent Dodd a contribution with this note, "Love and kisses, Florence."

Three days later, Oct. 9, Dodd wrote back, "Dear Florence: John Kluge's check, \$500."

(sic) and believe me it is mighty welcome." It was for \$500.

By the time December of 1964 rolled around, the Senator from Connecticut felt so grateful for the hospitality extended to him by the Metromedia cohorts that he wanted to do something in return. On Dec. 22 he wrote a glowing letter to President Johnson praising Mrs. Lowe and recommending her for a job.

"I know how interested you are in bringing more and more qualified women into the Federal service," Dodd wrote his friend LBJ. "It is my understanding that a vacancy exists on the U.S. Advisory Commission on Information, and I would like to propose to you the name of Mrs. Florence S. Lowe of Washington."

Dodd went on for more than a page in praise of the lady who had managed to maneuver him out of investigating TV violence on her own stations. President Johnson was not particularly impressed. Bill Moyers wrote Dodd a perfunctory acknowledgement Dec. 31.

Fraternalizing and the backscratching continued through 1965 with a regal party given by the Kluges on the Dodds' 31st wedding anniversary in May.

Meanwhile the TV stations with the high rate of violence remained uninvestigated. So you can understand why grateful Metromedia featured the Dodd-Buckley interview when other stations did not.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 13, 1966]

SECOND NETWORK PROTECTED BY DODD

(By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson)

The Metromedia TV chain was not the only one Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.) protected from Senate investigation regarding televised violence and its effect on the youth of America. Another network, the National Broadcasting Company, also got immunity.

Sen. Dodd's staff on the Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee spent many hours screening the networks, prepared all sorts of material ready for the Senator to investigate. But when they were all ready to go, investigation of the two most violent TV groups just faded away. Something mysterious happened. Suddenly Sen. Dodd, chairman of the subcommittee, lost interest.

At that time—the autumn of 1961—Dodd's Juvenile Delinquency staff had prepared a damaging case. Chief counsel Paul L. Laskin and staff director Carl L. Perian summarized their progress in a confidential memo to Dodd dated Oct. 25, 1961.

SCORECARD OF CRIME

"In our hearings thus far," they reported, "we have established that:

"Programs of the crime-detective, action-adventure, Western type increased from 15 per cent of total prime program time (7-11 p.m.) to over 50 per cent since 1955.

The memo also pointed out that "experts from several disciplines have testified as to the cumulative effect of so many children watching so much violence. Their feelings can be summarized by quoting Dr. Wilbur Schramm who testified, 'In view of our findings, the amount of violence on television is just too dangerous to go on.'"

The staff's biggest problem stated Laskin and Perian, was to pin down who was responsible for TV violence.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

"Through the process of subpoenaing documents relative to program decisions, we are now on the threshold of identifying the persons at not only NBC but ABC and CBS as well, who are responsible for crime and violence on television.

"We can now focus public opinion and attention on the actual three-to-six men who are responsible for major program development . . . A further public exposure of the men at NBC, ABC and CBS could have a permanent effect on the future makeup of network television."

Unknown to the subcommittee staff, NBC had already made a private approach to Dodd. The network had found an attorney in Philadelphia, Tom Meeker, who had once lived in Connecticut and knew the Senator personally.

Meeker buttonholed Dodd in the Capitol building on Sept. 16, 1961. Next day, he scribbled a personal note to the Senator on the stationery of the Mayflower Hotel. The note, intended for Dodd's eyes only, was slipped under the door of his Senate office.

"Dear Tom," wrote Meeker. "Thank you for seeing us yesterday. In my haste to give you the documents, I neglected to give you Mr. Sarnoff's reply to Mr. Kintner, which I enclose a copy of herewith. (Robert Sarnoff is NBC's board chairman; Robert Kintner was then NBC's president, is now a White House aide.)

"Mr. Sarnoff appreciated your willingness to hear his testimony in closed hearings," Meeker's letter continued, "and would prefer to make arrangements for the same subsequent to his return from Africa in about four weeks. In accordance with our chat yesterday, I will call you Monday afternoon."

Sen. Dodd not only obliged with closed hearings, but he completely suppressed any real probe of NBC. The balance of this inside story will follow shortly.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 21, 1966]

U.S. INTELLIGENCE UNDERGOES UPHEAVAL

(By Jack Anderson)

From the apogees of its spy satellites to the perigees of its bombproof basement code rooms, the vast U.S. intelligence industry has been going through a wrenching reorganization.

The Central Intelligence Agency has been rocked by more than 200 reforms. Military intelligence has been consolidated, with a great battering together of brass hats, into a single unit: The Defense Intelligence Agency.

Still, many Senators are not convinced that the reforms have gone far enough, and are demanding greater control over the whole James Bond industry.

The purpose of the reforms, of course, is to improve the quality of intelligence, eliminate rivalries, and prevent another Bay of Pigs—the CIA-sponsored invasion of Cuba which became a bloody fiasco.

While some minor rivalries may have been scotched, however, a major rivalry has emerged. Our intelligence apparatus has sprouted two heads, the CIA and the DIA, which often get in one another's war.

CIA VERSUS DIA

In theory, the CIA is supposed to be the final sieve through which all intelligence should pass before reaching the President. It is upon this information that he keeps abreast of world affairs and makes his policy judgments.

Yet the DIA increasingly is catching the President's eye. Moreover, it is so dominated by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara that it has a tendency to produce intelligence that supports his views. Its reports generally have reflected his optimistic outlook in the Vietnam war, rather than the pessimistic possibilities.

Those in the Pentagon who disagree with an intelligence analysis, of course, are free to state their views as a footnote. But it takes a bold man to challenge McNamara's attitudes too frequently.

His interest in economy, no secret to his intelligence officers, has led to more comfortable appraisal than conservative military men would make. They prefer to judge the Communist threat by its capability for aggression rather than someone's estimate of its intentions.

The Secretary of Defense, a formidable figure inside the policy-making councils, also has had an intimidating effort on the CIA.